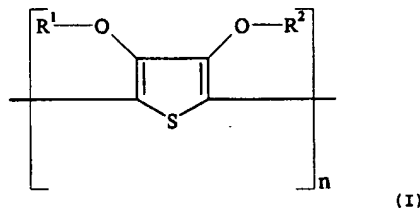


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Canceled).
2. (Previously Canceled).
3. (Previously Canceled).
4. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal alignment

layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

5. (Original) Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4 having a surface resistivity lower than 10⁵ Ω/□.

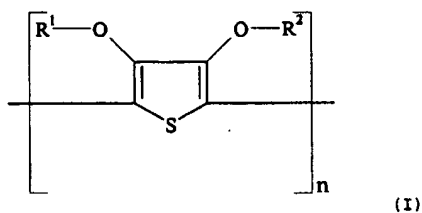
6. (Previously Canceled).

7. (Previously Amended) Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is a patterned layer including conducting

and non-conducting areas and wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is not removed at non-conducting areas.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

9. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene naphthalate),

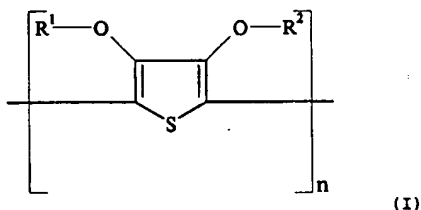
polycarbonate, polydicyclopentadiene, poly(ether sulfone), glass and a glass/plastic laminate.

10. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates is provided with an electroconductive layer.

11. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 10, wherein said electroconductive layer on at least one of said substrates comprises an indium-tin oxide layer.

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12. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



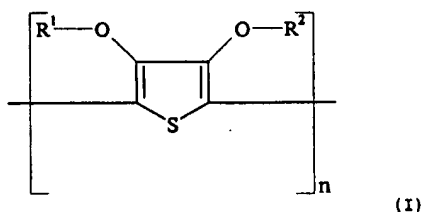
wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

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(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning, wherein an adhesion-improving anchor layer, having barrier properties with regard to oxygen and/or water vapor compounds which may diffuse from said substrate, is provided between at least one of said substrates and said liquid crystal alignment layer.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer ~~according to claim 4 or a liquid crystal device according to claim 8~~ obtained by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

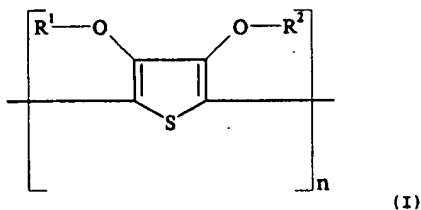
(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

15. (Previously Canceled).

16. (Previously Canceled).

17. (New) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal device comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer obtained by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.